

Sinclair  
Broadcasting's  
decision to force  
their stations to  
air an anti-Kerry  
documentary days  
before the election  
is a clear example  
of the dangers of  
media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the  
public airwaves free  
of charge, and as  
such is obligated by  
law to serve the  
public interest.  
This is the bargain  
that they struck  
with the citizens of  
this country in  
order to use the  
public air waves  
free of charge. But  
when large companies  
such as Sinclair and  
others control the  
airwaves, we get  
more of what's good  
for the bottom line  
and less of what we  
need for our  
democracy and less  
of what serves the  
public interest.  
Instead of something  
produced at "News  
Central" far away,  
it's more important  
that we see real  
people from our own  
communities and more  
substantive news  
about issues that  
matter.

Sinclair's actions  
show why we the  
public and you, our  
advocates, need to  
strengthen media  
ownership rules, not  
weaken them. They  
show why the license  
renewal process  
needs to involve  
more than a returned  
postcard.

In closing, in  
order to ensure that  
the public interest  
continues to be  
protected, industry  
consolidation should

in the best possible light be viewed with skepticism. It should be actively discouraged and rules should prevent any company from owning more than one media outlet in a given region of the country. I define regions as such, North East, Mid-Atlantic, South East, Mid-West, The North, The South, The Rockies, North West, and South West.

Thankyou.